

THE GREAT BATTLE LINES IN THE WEST



The first general engagement in the West, sometimes known as the battle of Mons-Charleroi, started August 20 and resulted in the defeat of the French and British. They retreated south of the Marne, where the second general engagement started September 6. The line of this date on the map shows the armies' positions just before the battle.

The German right wing was broken up and forced back, bringing about a retirement of the whole line. The German positions on September 15, in the midst of their retreat, are shown on the map by a series of light rectangles, while a row of darkened rectangles indicates the carefully prepared trench line of the Allies where they stood and were attacked by the allies September 15.

Both sides now extended their lines toward the coast. By October 15 the line was complete from the Alps to the sea.

The line on September 15 shows the Germans' great drive into the French line across the Meuse at St. Mihiel.

Crossed swords mark the spots of the entrenched stage line where the greatest struggles have taken place since October 15.

FIRST YEAR OF THE WAR IN THE WEST

The first month and a half of the western campaign was made up of a series of small, swift moves. On September 12, after the defeat on the Marne, the Germans took up defensive positions along the Aisne river. The ten and a half months since then have seen a long deadlock.

The battle line of the Aisne and the Oise quickly extended northeast to the sea. Fighting has been continuous, with tremendous losses. The general situation has remained unchanged, gains of a few miles for one side at one point offset by minor gains for the enemy in other sectors.

At the beginning of August the Kaiser took possession of the little state of Luxembourg and demanded passage through Belgium to the Franco-Belgian frontier.

Permission to pass denied. Von Einem attacked Liege (August 4), while other German armies passed around the city and swept over the level Belgian roads at a terrific rate. The little Belgian army yielded Brussels and fell back to Antwerp and Ghent.

First Big Engagement.

Not until the Germans had almost reached the French border did the first important engagement take place. This is generally known as the battle of Mons-Charleroi (about August 20-21), but at the same time there was severe fighting along the whole line through Thionville in Lorraine and along the Vosges in upper Alsace, where the French had invaded with temporary success.

This battle resulted in defeat for the French and English.

While obtaining some successes in counter-attacks on the advancing Germans at Peronne and at Guise, the French were obliged to fall back rapidly to the line of the River Marne.

On the left the French had withdrawn to below Paris and the westernmost German army, under Von Kluck, followed.

The garrison of Paris was put in thousands of motor cars and hurried on Von Kluck's flank. The latter was not taken entirely unawares and met the attack strongly, but at the same time the army of General Foch attacked the German army on Von Kluck's left and drove it back.

Driven Back From Paris.

The Germans had begun the battle with five armies in line. The withdrawal of the two farthest west now caused the retreat of the third, fourth and fifth in that order, each in turn finding its flank exposed by the withdrawal of the troops on its right. At the same time the movement on the east end of the German line was accelerated by a strong attack from the French fortified zone of Verdun.

The German retreat was as orderly as that of the French and English had been. The invaders took up an admirable defensive position. It ran just north of the Aisne river, on a series of bluffs, then just north of Chalons and through the wooded, rough regions of the Argonne and the Woivre, joining hands here with the troops besieging Verdun. The allies have tried this line in vain ever since.

Both combatants now tried to turn the west flank. Enormous bodies of cavalry. On the part of the French there was largely the desire to link up with the Belgians, now being attacked in Antwerp. The mighty siege guns of the Germans made short work of the Belgian position, however, and it fell on October 8. The remnants of the Belgian army retreated along the sea coast and the Germans in a final rush reached Ostend (October 15).

Line Extended to the Sea.

The battle line of the Aisne was now extended to the sea, the Germans holding the important French city of Lille, while the allies kept Ypres in Belgium and, partly by flooding the lowlands, held the position of the Yser river and canal.

From October 16 to November 10 was fought the desperate first battle

of Ypres, when the Germans suffered enormous losses in attempts to break through the line in Flanders and reach Calais. They succeeded in pushing back the allies only a little and the invasion of Belgium by the Germans finally induced them to desist and send reinforcements to Russia.

The Germans in September had performed the feat of pushing a salient into the French line south of Verdun, which terminated on the west bank of the Meuse river at St. Mihiel; while the French had taken the offensive with some success in Champagne at about the same time.

For the most part throughout the winter the fighting consisted of regular siege warfare, with heavy artillery combats and mine and counter-mine.

The flooding of the River Aisne from winter snows gave the Germans a chance to enter the French troops on the north side of that river in the vicinity of Soissons for a considerable distance and kill or capture most of them (January 14).

Take Offensive in Spring. With the spring, the French and English attempted to take the offensive at several points. Always preparing the way with tens or hundreds of thousands of shells, they tried joint effort of the German armor.

In the Vosges the dominating height of Hartmannswillerkopf was taken and retaken several times in sanguinary charges and finally remained in the hands of the French.

The salient of St. Mihiel was also subjected to tremendous French pressure on both "legs." The French succeeded in gaining a little ground, but the Germans, despite the apparent weakness of the sharp wedge they had driven into the French line, could not be dislodged and later succeeded in regaining some of the territory they had lost.

The British also reported "victories" at Neuve Chapelle and Hill No. 60, in Flanders. Whether these should be accounted successes for the allies is doubtful. The British suffered enormous losses and at Neuve Chapelle bungled affairs to the extent of shelling their own men who had taken German trenches. In other cases they left gallant little parties lodged in enemy's trenches without supports to be annihilated.

The next development was the unexpected use of poisonous gas fumes by the Germans in attacks just north of Ypres. With this novel weapon they succeeded in taking several small villages and more than compensating for the British gains south of Ypres. The losses of the French, Canadians and British were severe, but they succeeded in stemming the German onslaught effectively a few miles back from their former position.

Begin Series of Attacks.

The German line makes a salient at Soissons, though not such a pronounced one as at St. Mihiel. The French now began a series of attacks on the upper side of this salient, to the north of Arras. Expanding hundreds of thousands of shells, they time and again blasted away the barbed wire entanglements and concrete trenches, held by Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria's men, and then charged across the desolate ground for slight gains.

The fighting centered about the sugar refinery of Souchez and the great German work called the Labyrinth. Fighting went on in cellars and tunnels below the earth and the casualties were heavy. The French bent the German line and captured the Labyrinth, but whether the gains justified their sacrifice in human life is questionable.

In July, Crown Prince Frederick William's army attacked in the Argonne forest, west of Verdun, and succeeded in gaining several hundred yards of shattered woodland and capturing several thousand Frenchmen.

There were rumors that the Germans were reinforcing for another great drive toward Calais or Paris, but the Teutonic campaign in the West continued to wait upon the crushing of the much weaker enemy in Poland.

The destruction wrought negligible.

The first raid of the English coast was made January 19 on Yarmouth and other Norfolk towns. Little damage was done. Other raids followed from time to time, and finally London was reached May 31. Several persons were killed.

While single aeroplanes were the rule in the early months of the war, the British and French are now sending squadrons to accomplish important work. Such air fleets attacked the Zeppelin works at Friedrichshafen, on Lake Constance, and the chemical works at Ludwigshafen. Accounts of damage done on these raids are conflicting. The French asserted that large fires had been caused.

On June 15, 23 allied aeroplanes dropped 130 bombs on Karlsruhe, capital of Baden, killing 11 persons and wounding many others.

The biggest aeroplane raid of the war took place July 13, when 35 French machines dropped 171 bombs on the railway station at Vigneulles, in the Woivre.

FIRST YEAR OF THE WAR ON THE SEA

At the end of the first year of war not a German fighting craft, except submarines, is known to be at large outside the Baltic sea. The Austrian warships are confined to the upper Adriatic and the Turkish fleet to the Sea of Marmara and adjacent straits. The merchant marine of the central European powers has disappeared utterly from the ocean highways. Sixty million dollars' worth of German shipping lies idle in the docks of New York, while several times as much is bottled up elsewhere. At the same time the German submarines have inflicted enormous losses of allied shipping. The following is a fairly accurate summary of the number of craft which have been destroyed:

Entente Allies.

British	Russian	French	Spanish
Battleships	10	2	2
Cruisers	12	1	2
Submarines	4	3	1
Auxiliary cruisers	5	1	1
Gunboats, destroyers, and torpedo boats	4	6	2
Total	37	13	8

Teutonic Allies.

German	Austrian	Italian
Battleships	1	1
Cruisers	13	2
Submarines	9	1
Auxiliary cruisers	19	1
Gunboats, destroyers, and torpedo boats	20	1
Total	62	6

Total tonnage destroyed, 376,770.

Teutonic allies, 224,746.

BIG EVENTS IN FIRST YEAR OF THE WORLD WAR

June 28—Archduke and Archduchess Francis of Austria slain by Serbian assassins.

August 1—Germany declares war on Russia.

August 2—German forces enter Luxembourg. Germany demands passage through Belgium.

August 3—England announces state of war with Germany.

August 4—French invade southern Alsace.

August 5—British troops land in France and Belgium.

August 6—German forces enter Belgium.

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THE CHANGING BATTLE LINE IN THE EAST



The Germans again have penetrated as close to Warsaw as the star which marks the "high tide" of last autumn.

CAMPAIGNS OUTSIDE BIG WAR THEATERS

In a score of regions there has been fighting which would have held wide attention were it not for the mighty battle lines in France and Poland.

Serbia's own war was a greater trial to her than either of the two preceding Balkan struggles. Assisted by Montenegro, the little Slavic nation twice threw the hosts of Franz Josef beyond her borders and inflicted losses of about 330,000 men, but she suffered severely herself.

The Austrians invaded Serbia in great force about August 15 and penetrated to the Jadar river, where a great five-day battle ended in the rout of the Teutons.

The Austrians returned soon in stronger force than ever. They reached Valjevo, where on November 17 the Serbians met a defeat.

With their supply of artillery ammunition exhausted, the Serbians now had to retreat. The Austrians, believing them crushed, withdrew six army corps for reinforcements against the victorious Russians in Galicia.

Shells and English tars with naval guns reached the Serbians, and on December 5 they turned on the Austrians and cut them to pieces.

The entry of Turkey into the war was marked by a brave, but foolhardy attempt to invade Egypt. Great Britain's Indian and colonial troops threw the invaders back with heavy losses.

British and Japanese troops invested the fortified German port of Tsingtau, China, and after a siege of a few weeks the defenders gave up the hopeless struggle.

A section of the Boer population of South Africa revolted. The revolt was put down by a Boer, Premier Botha. He then invaded German Southwest Africa, and after a long campaign in the waterless deserts captured the greatly outnumbered Germans (July 8).

After taking three-quarters of a year to arm herself to the teeth, Italy attacked Austria this spring. The effect of the entry of Italy upon the arena has not yet been marked.

FIRST YEAR COST OF WAR IN MEN AND MONEY

Only approximately accurate tables of the killed, wounded and missing in the first year of the war are possible, because France and Russia and Austria-Hungary do not give out their figures, while Germany has changed her policy recently to one of secrecy. Great Britain still tells her losses from month to month.

The following estimates are believed to give a fairly correct idea of the casualties:

Teutonic Allies.

Germany 2,300,000

Austria-Hungary 1,900,000

Turkey 230,000

Total 4,430,000

Entente Allies.

France 1,700,000

Russia (including prisoners) 1,175,000

Great Britain 480,000

Belgium 260,000

Serbia 240,000

Japan 1,210

Italy (no reports of losses) 75,000

Portugal (fighting in colonies) (minor)

Montenegro 30,000

San Marino (7)

Total 6,286,210

The first year of the war has cost the belligerent governments about \$16,500,000,000 in direct expenditures for military purposes. The war is now costing about \$45,000,000 a day, \$2,000,000 an hour and \$30,000 a minute.

High Tide of Russian Invasion.

Hindenburg then drew off the northern section of his army in Poland to the north, thinking to take the pursuit.

ing Russians in flank with the southern section. But the Austrians were too slow to carry out the field marshal's plans and the Russians, slipping into a gap in the lines between the Germans and their allies, slaughtered the latter. The result was the high tide of Russian invasion. The Austrians withdrew over the Carpathians again, leaving Przemysl to be besieged a second time. The Germans withdrew to Silesia and the Russians, following closely, were able for a brief moment to raid this rich province at Pleschen. At the same time they entered East Prussia again.

But again the German strategic railways proved